

support 22 by a fastener, such as a rivet 52, passing through the bore 51 and apertures 32 of extensions 30. Two nylon washers 54 are disposed partially in bore 51 and about rivet 52 to facilitate rotation of the handle 44.

The handle 44 also includes a pin 56 press fit through a bore 57 and projecting from both lateral sides of the handle 44 at its first end 46.

The kettle 10 also includes a spout lid 58. The spout lid 58 includes a cover portion 60 to cover the spout opening 19 in a known manner, and an extension portion 62 coupled to the cover portion 60.

As best seen in FIG. 3, the extension portion 62 includes a pair of spaced-apart walls 64, each having a slot 66 therein. The extension portion 62 also includes a cylindrical wall 68 defining a bore 70. The extension portion 62 also includes a triangular-shaped projection 72 coupled to the cylindrical wall 68. The projection 72 has a rounded surface 74 and a flat surface 76 (FIGS. 6-8).

A fastener, such as a rivet 78, is disposed through the apertures 40 of the extension 38 of the second arm 34 and the bore 76 to rotatably couple the spout lid 58 to the support 22. Rivets 78 and 52 have axes substantially parallel to each other.

The ends of the pin 56 are respectively disposed in slots 66 to engageably couple the handle 44 to the spout lid 58.

The kettle 10 also includes a leaf spring 80 having two spaced-apart arms 82, 84. Arm 82 of leaf spring 80 sits on the wall 42 of the support 22. The leaf spring 80 is shaped and dimensioned to contact and bias the triangular-shaped projection 72. As discussed below, the triangular-shaped projection 72 and the leaf spring 80 form an over-center mechanism to bias and maintain the spout lid 58 in either an open or a closed position relative to the spout opening 19.

The kettle 10 is operated as follows. As seen in FIGS. 1, 4, 5 and 6, the spout lid 58 is in a closed position, wherein the cover portion 60 thereof covers spout opening 19 to prevent the flow of liquid therethrough. The leaf spring 80, as seen in FIG. 6, contacts the rounded surface 74 of the triangular-shaped projection 72, biasing the spout lid 58 to the closed position.

As seen in FIG. 2, when a user grasps the cover 50 of the handle 44 and lifts the kettle 10 upwards, the weight of the body 12 and its contents will typically cause the handle 44 to rotate about the axis of rivet 52 in a counterclockwise direction, as viewed in FIG. 2, causing the pin 56 to contact the walls 64 forming the slots 66 in the extension portion 62 of the spout lid 58, thereby causing the spout lid 58 to rotate about the axis or rivet 78 in a clockwise direction.

When the spout lid 58 first starts to rotate, the triangular-shaped projection 72, as seen in FIG. 7, depresses arm 84 of the leaf spring 80. As the spout lid 58 continues to rotate and the rounded surface 74 passes a certain point, the arm 84 of leaf spring 80 contacts and biases the flat surface 76 and the spout lid 58 is popped open and biased in an open position.

The free cantilevered second end 48 of the handle 44 allows a user to easily grasp the cover 50 without being burned. In addition, the cantilevered second end 48 advantageously extends radially back from the central axis "A" so that a user does not have to overly flex his wrist when pouring a liquid from the kettle 10.

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from the invention in its broader aspects. Therefore, the aim in the appended claims is to

cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention. The matter set forth in the foregoing description and accompanying drawings is offered by way of illustration only and not as a limitation. The actual scope of the invention is intended to be defined in the following claims when viewed in their proper perspective based on the prior art.

What is claimed is:

1. A kettle comprising:

a body defining a storage unit,

the body having a spout defining an opening into the storage unit;

a spout lid coupled to the body for rotation about a first axis between a closed position wherein the lid covers the opening and an open position wherein the lid is spaced from the opening; and

a handle having first and second ends and coupled to the body for rotation about a second axis disposed between the first and second ends and engageably coupled to the spout lid, wherein the rotation of the handle in a first direction causes movement of the lid to its open position and rotation of the handle in a second direction causes movement of the lid to its closed position.

2. The kettle of claim 1, wherein the rotation of the handle in a first direction causes rotation of the spout lid in a second direction.

3. The kettle of claim 1, and further comprising an over-center mechanism coupled to the spout lid to maintain the spout lid in either of the open or the closed positions.

4. The kettle of claim 3, wherein the spout lid includes a projection and the over-center mechanism includes a biasing mechanism resiliently coupled to the projection.

5. The kettle of claim 4, wherein the biasing mechanism is a leaf spring.

6. The kettle of claim 5, wherein the projection has first and second projection sides, wherein in the open condition the first projection side contacts the leaf spring and in the closed position the second projection side contacts the leaf spring.

7. The kettle of claim 6, and further comprises a support disposed on the body and rotatably supporting both the handle and the spout lid.

8. The kettle of claim 7, wherein the leaf spring is carried by the support.

9. The kettle of claim 1, wherein the handle is engageably coupled to the spout lid by a cam mechanism.

10. The kettle of claim 9, wherein the handle has a cam member projecting from the first end and the spout lid includes an extension having a groove defined by a wall, the cam mechanism including the cam member disposed in the groove and engageable with the wall.

11. The kettle of claim 1, wherein the first end of the handle is engageably coupled to the spout lid.

12. The kettle of claim 1, wherein the second end of the handle is freely cantilevered.

13. The kettle of claim 12, and further including a thermal insulating and cushioning sheath disposed about the second end of the handle.

14. A kettle comprising:

a body defining a storage unit,

the body including a spout defining an opening into the storage unit;

a spout lid coupled to the body for rotation about a first axis between a closed position wherein the lid covers the opening and an open position wherein the lid is spaced from the opening; and

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a handle having first and second ends and coupled to the body for rotation about a second axis; and

a lid-actuating mechanism engageably coupled to the spout lid between the first and second axes so that the rotation of the handle in a first direction causes rotation of the spout lid in a second direction.

15. The kettle of claim 14, and further including an over-center mechanism engageably coupled to the spout lid to maintain the spout lid in either of the open or closed positions.

16. The kettle of claim 15, wherein the spout lid includes a projection and the over-center mechanism includes a biasing mechanism biasly coupled to the projection.

17. The kettle of claim 16, wherein the biasing mechanism is a leaf spring.

18. The kettle of claim 17, wherein the projection has first and second projection sides, wherein in the open condition

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the first projection side contacts the leaf spring and in the closed position the second projection side contacts the leaf spring.

19. The kettle of claim 18, and further comprises a support disposed on the body rotatably supporting both the handle and the spout lid.

20. The kettle of claim 19, wherein the leaf spring is carried by the support.

21. The kettle of claim 14, wherein the handle is engageably coupled to the lid spout by a cam mechanism.

22. The kettle of claim 21, wherein the handle has a cam member projecting from the first end and the lid spout includes an extension having a groove defined by a wall, the cam mechanism including the cam member disposed in the groove and engageable with the wall.

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23. A kettle comprising:

a body defining a storage unit;

the body having a spout defining an opening into the storage unit;

a spout closure member coupled to the body for movement between a closed position

wherein the closure member closes the opening and an open position wherein the closure member uncloses the opening; and

a handle having first and second ends coupled to the body for rotation about an axis disposed between the first and second ends and coupled to the spout closure member, wherein rotation of the handle in a first direction causes movement of the closure member to its open position and rotation of the handle in a second direction causes movement of the closure member to its closed position.

24. The kettle of claim 23, and further comprising structure coupling the spout closure member to the body for pivotal movement between the closed and open positions.

25. The kettle of claim 24, wherein the spout closure member and the handle rotate in opposite directions.

26. The kettle of claim 24, wherein the spout closure member and the handle rotate about substantially parallel axes.

27. The kettle of claim 23, wherein the spout closure member is a lid which covers the opening in the closed position.

28. A kettle comprising:  
a body defining a storage unit;  
the body including a spout defining an opening into the storage unit;  
a spout closure member coupled to the body for movement between a closed position wherein the closure member closes the opening and an open position wherein the closure member uncloses the opening;  
a handle coupled to the body for movement relative thereto; and  
a closure member-actuating mechanism coupling the spout closure member to the handle so that movement of the handle in a first direction causes movement of the spout closure member in a different second direction.

29. The kettle of claim 28, wherein the spout closure member is a lid covering the opening in the closed position.

30. The kettle of claim 28, and further comprising structure coupling the spout closure member and the handle to the body for pivotal movement respectively about first and second axes.

31. The kettle of claim 30, wherein the first and second axes are spaced apart and the closure member-actuating mechanism couples the spout closure member to the handle between the axes.

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